

September 8, 2003

The Honorable Herb Wesson  
Speaker of the Assembly  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California 95814

**AB 890 (Wesson) Last-term member fundraising**  
**Position: Oppose unless amended/support if amended**

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The Fair Political Practices Commission has taken a position of “oppose unless amended/support if amended” on AB 890.

The Commission held many public meetings to discuss regulatory implementation of Proposition 34. One of the most difficult decisions the Commission had to make was whether to apply the proposition’s provisions to campaign committees formed for an election held prior to the proposition’s effective date. Ultimately, the Commission decided its regulations could not retroactively apply the proposition to these committees.

Since that time, however, contributions into these committees in excess of the contribution limits have become more frequent. Concerned that these growing exceptions have begun to threaten the contribution limit rule, the Commission has voted to support a legislative amendment to ban these over-limit contributions. The Commission has also taken a position of “support if amended” on SB 467 (Johnson), which, like your bill, seeks to give last-term members the ability to fundraise for expenses related to holding office.

The Commission seeks two amendments to your measure: 1) imposition of the Proposition 34 limits on all contributions to state candidates, regardless of the status of the committee; and 2) a narrowing of the authority for last-term member fundraising to only those purposes associated with holding office. Page-and-line amendments reflecting the Commission’s requested proposal are enclosed.

I would be happy to meet with you or your staff to discuss the Commission’s position.

Sincerely,

Mark Krausse  
Executive Director